

Core Information About WholeLife Church

Name: WholeLife Church (Seventh-day Adventist Church)

Website: <https://wholelife.church/>

Location: Orlando, Florida

Mission: Loving people into a lifelong friendship with God.

Vision: We will be a church without walls, fully engaged in serving the people of our community.

Staff Team:

Abel Aponte - Technical Director

Albert Acosta - Director of Music

Alex Paden-Smith - Facilities Assistant

Anderline Bredy - Justice Ministries Pastor

Aubrey Toup - Children & Family Ministries Pastor

Carla Monnier - Youth & Young Adult Pastor

Freud Braz - Member Care Pastor

John Monday - Executive Pastor

Karen Dunscomb - Facilities Director / Bookkeeper

Ken Wetmore - Lead Pastor

Lucas Moraes - Digital Content Creator

Melanie Bockmann - Worship Pastor

Randy Magray - Communication Director

Service Times: Saturday service schedules: Sabbath School 10:45 am and Worship Services 9:30 am and 12 pm.

Address: 2800 N Orange Ave, Orlando 32804

Contact: 407-898-0451

History: The foundation of WholeLife Church began more than a hundred years ago. Today, we celebrate our diverse history and multi-cultural membership.

See how we've changed through the years:

June 12, 2021

Welcome Pastor Ken!

On June 12, WholeLife Church officially welcomed their new senior pastor, Ken Wetmore, his wife Rachelle, and their children Kyla and Eric. The church held a fun-filled welcome reception for the Wetmore family that evening in the Orlando Junior Academy gymnasium.

March 27, 2021

Pastor Andy's Last Sabbath

After 37 years of service and leadership to the church family and surrounding communities, March 27, 2021, marked Pastor Andy's final Sabbath as WholeLife Church's senior pastor. The

day was filled with celebration and memories, and culminated in the afternoon with a program dedicated to honoring his years of service.

March 26, 2021

City of Orlando Proclamation

On March 26, during the reception for Pastor Andy's retirement, Orlando City Commissioner Robert Stuart presented an official proclamation from Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and the City of Orlando declaring March 26, 2021 as "Pastor Andy McDonald Day" in recognition of Andy's service to the Orlando community. March 13, 2021

New Senior Pastor Announced

On March 13, after many months of search by our search committee, along with Faith Search Partners and the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the church announced that Pastor Ken Wetmore had accepted the invitation to join WholeLife Church as the new senior pastor, with an anticipated start date of June 12, 2021. Pastor Jeff Cinquemani served as interim senior pastor until Pastor Ken's arrival.

February 11, 2021

Pastor Andy Retirement Announcement

With the official search for a new senior pastor actively underway, on February 11 Pastor Andy sent a letter to the congregation announcing the date of his retirement as March 27, 2021.

October 3, 2020

In-person Services Resume

On October 3, the church began meeting in-person again with modified protocols and reduced capacity due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

March 14, 2020

In-person Services Cancelled Due to COVID-19

On March 14, in response to the emergent global COVID-19 pandemic, WholeLife Church cancelled all in-person services and classes and began meeting online-only. This continued through September.

February 27, 2020

WholeLife Church Name/Brand Launch

On February 27, during our annual Church Retreat, WholeLife Church officially launched its new name and branding.

2019

New Church Name

On December 7, after nearly a year-long process, the church voted to change its name to WholeLife Seventh-day Adventist Church.

2018

Florida Hospital Name Change

Florida Hospital and Adventist Health System announced they were changing their name to AdventHealth. Because of this, Florida Hospital Church began its search for a new name.

2017

Justice Ministries

Added a full-time Justice Ministries staff member.

2016

New Logo

A new church logo (FHC) and revised service times were revealed on May 1.

2015

Vision 2018

Adopted "Vision 2018." Learn more about our vision.

2013

Off-Site Worship Cafe

The first offsite Worship Cafe was opened.

2012

Worship Cafe

The in-house Worship Cafe was opened on October 6.

2009

New Mission and Vision Adopted

The style and times of worship services were changed to better fit the community and church needs. The new mission and vision were adopted to propel the church into its next phase while attracting new members from the community.

2006

Children & Family Pastor Added

A full-time Children's/Family pastor position was added to the staff.

2002

Downtown Community Ended

Downtown Community ended a 9-year run. The church voted to develop Loch Haven Children's Academy, a 247-capacity early childhood education and care.

2001

Mortgage Burning

The mortgage was burned on the last Saturday in December.

2000

Third Floor Completed

The third floor of the new facility was completed.

1993

Church Moved and Changed Names

On May 22, the church move to 2800 North Orange Avenue was official. With the move came a new name: Florida Hospital Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1991

Ground Broken for New Facility

The church broke ground on a new facility on September 29.

1990

Church Voted to Exchange Property

The church voted to exchange the property at 800 Lake Estelle Drive with Florida Hospital. In the deal, the church received the 2800 block of Orange Avenue.

1989

Church Expansion Project Abandoned

After hiring an architect, the church realized the plans for additions and renovations were double the original estimates. The project was abandoned, and the church began to rent space from the John Knox Presbyterian Church.

1987

Vote to Expand the Church

The congregation voted to expand and renovate the church facility.

1984

Kress Memorial Church Merger Failed

The membership voted to merge with Kress Memorial Church, but the merger was not completed due to a vote from the Kress membership.

1981

Florida Sanitarium Church Renamed

Florida Sanitarium Church officially became The Seventh-day Adventist Church at Florida Hospital.

1971

Church Sanctuary Redecorated

The church sanctuary was redecorated.

1960

Lake Estelle Facility Expanded

A transept for additional seating and the education wing for children's classes were built as an addition to the Lake Estelle facility.

1948

Growth Led to a New Sanctuary

The membership grew to 146, and a new sanctuary was built at 800 Lake Estelle Drive. Today, this building is part of AdventHealth University.

1926

Hospital Services Move to Winyah Chapel

On September 24, the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists organized the hospital services into a church, meeting in Winyah Chapel.

1922

Hospital Employees Began Worship Services

A group of hospital employees began Saturday afternoon services on the "day porch" of the hospital.

1908

Central Church Founded

A property lot was purchased for \$250, and an \$800 frame sanctuary, measuring 25 x 36 feet, was constructed at the corner of West Central and Terry Street. The church, appropriately named Central Church, also featured a school. The Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists purchased a 72-acre property for \$9,000. On October 1, the building opened as Florida Sanitarium and Hospital.

1893

Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Organized

The Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists organized September 22, with three ordained ministers, two licentiates, and 139 members.

1890

Members Organize in Orlando

On March 30, a group of 14 members was organized in Orlando, which at that time had a population of 2,500. The congregation increased to 25 people and met in the member's home before renting the Armory Building on Court Street.

1885

First Seventh-day Adventists in Central Florida

A small group worshipping in Sorrento became the first Seventh-day Adventist believers in Central Florida.

Important Information Links & Details :-

- I need prayer: prayer@wholelife.church
- pastoral care: freud@wholelife.church, ken@wholelife.church • I'd like to join or transfer my membership to WholeLife Church:
<https://share.fluro.io/form/6762d242e959460036fc930b>
- I'd like to start or join a WholeLife Small Community: <https://wholelife.church/communities>
- I'm interested in getting involved as a volunteer: <https://wholelife.church/serve>
- I'm curious about studying the Bible or learning more about baptism: ken@wholelife.church
- I'd like to be baptized: ken@wholelife.church

- I'd like to have my child dedicated to God: melanie@wholelife.church
- I'm interested in upcoming events or ministries: <https://wholelife.church/events>

If you don't see what you're looking for, don't worry! Just let me know how I can help.

We'd love to stay connected with you! Click here to update your information:

<https://share.fluro.io/form/6762cf014c9cb60036ff14b8>

- <https://wholelife.church/>
- I am New : <https://wholelife.church/imnew>
- OUR Philosophy of worship - <https://wholelife.church/philosophyofworship> - Forms All :
https://hospitalchurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/public?sort_by=DATE_CREATED
- <https://wholelife.church/hub>
- Connect : <https://hospitalchurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/353/responses/new> - Events : <https://wholelife.church/events>
-
- Newsletters : <https://wholelife.church/newsletter> - Give : <https://wholelife.church/give>
-
- I'm New : <https://wholelife.church/imnew>
- Translation App : <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/listenwifi/id1391914337>
- Podcasts : <https://wholelife.church/podcast> - Sabbath Classes Map : <https://storage2.snappages.site/5964T9/assets/files/Campus-Map-11-x-17-in.pdf>
- Communities : <https://wholelife.church/communities> - Ministers
- <https://wholelife.church/adult>
- <https://wholelife.church/adventurersandpathfinders>
- <https://wholelife.church/childrenschoir>
- <https://wholelife.church/drama>
- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYGtA798lbtAVU4Xf8ipxVUL8Kn8hYlu0C-yUu1aSS-xva6Q/viewform>
- <https://wholelife.church/justice>
- <https://wholelife.church/kids>
- <https://wholelife.church/music>
- <https://wholelife.church/stephenministries>
- <https://wholelife.church/productions>
- <https://wholelife.church/young-adults>
- <https://wholelife.church/youth>
- <https://wholelife.church/wholelifeministries>

- Partners
- <https://wholelife.church/wholeness>
- <https://wholelife.church/gls>
- <https://wholelife.church/worldvision>
- <https://wholelife.church/adventhealth>
- Kens Blog
- <https://wholelife.church/blog/2024/09/14/ai-sermon-s>
- <https://wholelife.church/blog/2024/08/09/what-are-you-reading>
- <https://wholelife.church/blog/2024/08/02/the-global-leadership-summit>
- <https://wholelife.church/blog/2024/07/26/nature>
- <https://wholelife.church/blog/2024/05/11/kenmunication>

URL: <https://hospitalchurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/353/responses/new>

Heading: No Heading Found

Content:

URL: <https://wholelife.church/events>

Heading: wholelife events

Content:



Lunch & Learn with Job Partnership

Collaboration with WholeLife Church Justice Ministry

Date: January 4, 2025 | Time: 1:30 - 3:00 PM (EST)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

44 spots remaining

 Mark Your Calendar & Spread the Word! 

WholeLife Church and Job Partnership are joining forces to empower individuals by leveling up their careers and breaking generational barriers to gainful employment! Join us for an inspiring Lunch & Learn where you will:

- 🕒 Discover how this initiative is transforming lives and creating pathways to success.
- 🕒 Learn about opportunities available for students, volunteers, and community members.
- 🕒 Get your questions answered and hear powerful success stories from graduates.

ART COMMUNITY - Painting Class

Date: January 19, 2025 | Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM (EST)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

Cost: \$15 per person

Activity: Guided Painting Class—open to all skill levels! 🎨

Join us for the next Fine Arts Small Community event at WholeLife Church! Whether you're a seasoned artist or a beginner, this class is the perfect opportunity to explore your creativity. Enjoy an evening of art, fun, and connection. Reserve your spot today and let's create something beautiful together!

WholeLife Annual Church Retreat - 2025

Dates: April 4 - 6, 2025 (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

Mark your calendars for our annual church retreat! Stay tuned for more details and links to everything you need.

Ice Skating at the ICE DEN

Date: June 1, 2025 | Time: All day (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

Join us for a cool day of fun at the ICE DEN for ice skating! ❄️ 📅 More details coming soon—mark your calendar!

Water Fight at Matthews Park

Date: June 10, 2025 | Time: TBD (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

💧 Get ready for a water fight at Matthews Park! Stay tuned for more details and save the date!

VBS Set-Up Party

Date: June 15, 2025 | Time: TBD (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

Help us kick off VBS with a fun set-up party! 🎉 Don't miss out—mark your calendars and be part of the excitement!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dates: June 16, 2025 (12:00 PM) - June 20, 2025 (6:00 PM) (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

VBS is back! 🧑🏻🧑🏻 Get ready for five days filled with fun and adventure. Save the dates—more details coming soon!

Inflatable Water Events with Food Trucks

Date: June 29, 2025 | Time: TBD (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

Join us for inflatable water games and delicious food from food trucks! 🍔 🎉 A day full of family fun—save the date!

Westmonte Pool Night

Date: July 8, 2025 | Time: 4:00 - 7:00 PM (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

Cool off with us at Westmonte Pool Night! 🏊 It's going to be a splash—don't miss out, save the date!

Parent's Night Out

Date: July 15, 2025 | Time: 5:30 - 8:00 PM (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

Parents, enjoy a night out while we take care of the fun! 🍷 More details coming soon—save the date!

Picnic at the Beach

Date: July 19, 2025 | Time: All day (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

Pack your picnic baskets! 🧺 Join us for a relaxing beach day filled with connection and fun. Save the date!

Improv Night

Date: July 29, 2025 | Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

Get ready to laugh your heart out at Improv Night! 🤡 Mark your calendars—more info coming soon!

Lake Day

Date: August 3, 2025 | Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

Soak up the sun on Lake Day! ☀️ 🏖️ It's going to be a blast—save the date!

The Global Leadership Summit

Event: Global Leadership Network at WholeLife Church, in Collaboration with AdventHealth

Dates: August 7 - 8, 2025 (EDT)

[Add to calendar] | [Share]

Why Attend?

Learn actionable leadership insights from a diverse, world-class faculty.

Experience the GLS in person or online.

Network with community leaders and like-minded individuals.

Join over 110 countries and 55+ languages in this global event.

Why Attend at WholeLife Church?

Networking opportunities with local leaders.

Reduced costs and no travel hassle.

Grow and learn with your team in a familiar, close-to-home setting.

Register now to secure your spot before early bird pricing ends on July 17. Use the buttons to save the date and invite your friends!

URL: <https://wholelife.church/newsletter>

Heading: newsletter

Content:

This Week in Our Newsletter, we're excited to get back to our Great Question series! Ken will be preaching on the thought-provoking topic: "Does God lead people in different directions?" Want to explore this powerful question? Join us as we dive into it together this week!

URL: <https://wholelife.church/give>

Heading: Giving

Content:

Giving

"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it, for He founded it on the seas and established it in the waters."

— Psalm 24:1

Ways to Give

Give Online

You can give online anytime with our secure and easy-to-use donation platform. [Give Online Now]

Give In Person

Tithe envelopes for cash and checks are available in the lobby or at the church office. Baskets are also provided as you exit the worship center.

Please make checks payable to:

WholeLife Church

By Mail

You can send your donations by mail to:

WholeLife Church

2800 North Orange Avenue

Orlando, FL 32804

Please make checks payable to:

WholeLife Church

By Text

To give by text, sign up [here] and then text the keyword and amount to:

407-449-1155

Example: "Church Budget 20" donates \$20 to the church budget.

The Importance of Giving

Giving is fundamental to building a strong church community. It supports our mission of serving and loving others, helping us to grow spiritually and reduce selfishness.

Why Do We Give?

In the New Testament, a young boy's small meal of fish and loaves fed over 5,000 people when placed in the hands of Jesus. This story teaches us that, while our offerings may seem small, when placed in God's hands, they can have an immeasurable impact. Through giving, we let go of our worldly possessions and allow God to use them to bless others. God doesn't need our offerings, but we gain spiritual rewards through the act of letting go.

Where Your Gift Goes

Church Budget

The Church Budget covers everything that WholeLife Church does.

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, and all financial records are open for review.

Key expenses, such as local staffing (non-pastoral employees) and support for Orlando Junior Academy, make up nearly half of our annual budget.

If you wish to designate your gift for a specific purpose, we honor that request strictly.

World Budget

These funds, which are beyond tithe, support the broader Seventh-day Adventist Denomination. Funds designated as "World Budget" support 18 ministries worldwide.

Tithes

The biblical tithe is 10% of your income, as described in Malachi 3. Tithing is not an act of giving, but rather a return of the portion God has designated as His.

100% of the tithes are sent to the Florida Seventh-day Adventist Conference.

Tithes support our pastors, as well as a portion of the teachers at Orlando Junior Academy.

The Florida Conference operates on about 80% of every tithed dollar, with the remaining 20% supporting other denominational work.

URL: <https://wholelife.church/imnew>

Heading: I'm New

Content:

Welcome to WholeLife Seventh-day Adventist Church!

OUR MISSION

Loving people into a lifelong friendship with God.

OUR VISION

To be a church without walls, fully engaged in serving our community.

OUR VALUES

Acceptance | Forgiveness | Grace | Love | Participation | The Bible | Worship

Our Philosophy of Worship

At WholeLife Church, we believe in creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone is invited to connect with God through worship, fellowship, and service.

Connect With Us

The HUB: WholeLife Resources

Stay connected with all that's happening at WholeLife Church! [\[Link to the HUB\]](#)

Join a WholeLife Small Community

Join a small group to grow in faith and fellowship with others. [\[Link to Small Communities\]](#)

Who We Are

WholeLife Seventh-day Adventist Church is a diverse congregation located in Orlando, Florida. Our mission is to love people into a lifelong friendship with God.

We embrace all individuals—whether you are single, married, divorced, LGBTQ+, rich, poor, disabled, old, or young. We welcome everyone, regardless of where you are on your faith journey. Whether you've been a lifelong Christian or ended up here by chance, we extend grace and peace as you begin or continue your walk with God.

At WholeLife Church, we are all welcome here.

(Welcome message inspired by John Petty, Pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church in Aurora, CO, with edits by WholeLife Church staff. [Read our full welcome here.](#))

URL: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/listenwifi/id1391914337>

Heading: ListenWIFI4+

Content:

App Store Preview

Visit the Mac App Store to explore, purchase, and download apps.

ListenWIFI (4+)

Wi-Fi Audio Streaming

By Listen Technologies Corporation

Designed for iPad

Rating: 4.1/5 based on 247 reviews

URL: <https://wholelife.church/podcast>

Heading: Podcasts

Content:

The WholeLife Church inspiration you love,
straight into your headphones.

This Is WholeLife

A weekly conversation around a variety of topics being shared and discussed at the WholeLife Church in Orlando, Florida. If you join us online or in person, you are familiar with our #WholeLifeReflections, and this is where we continue those conversations!

Join pastors Ken Wetmore, Dr. Melanie Bockmann, and Communication Director and Host Randy Magray as they take a look back, a look deeper, and a peek into the week ahead. We can't wait to share these insightful discussions with you!

You can contact us with your comments and questions by email at podcast@wholelife.church, voice mail, or text message at 407-965-1607, and on social media using #ThisIsWholeLife. We encourage your feedback so we can grow together in our lifelong friendships with God.

Listen below and subscribe to This Is WholeLife on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you listen to podcasts to ensure you never miss an episode! New shows air every Wednesday.

Speaking of Grace

Speaking of Grace is a direct audio recording of our weekly WholeLife Church sermons, in a convenient podcast format. This podcast began in May of 2020 stemming from many requests that came from current and former church members as well as visitors. Everyone wanted to be to take what Andy McDonald was talking about every week 'on the go!' That desire hasn't diminished since Ken Wetmore became WholeLife Church's senior pastor in 2021. Ken's messages begin at Episode 57: I Am Ken Wetmore...We Are WholeLife Church.

New episodes containing the previous week's message is released every Tuesday with our pastors and guest speakers inviting you into a lifelong friendship with God.

Listen below and subscribe to Speaking of Grace on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher or wherever you listen to podcasts to make sure you never miss a sermon! New sermons air every Tuesday.

Meet the Podcast Team!

Ken Wetmore Lead Pastor

Melanie Bockmann Worship Pastor

Randy Magray Communication Director Podcast Producer/Host

URL: <https://storage2.snappages.site/5964T9/assets/files/Campus-Map-11-x-17-in.pdf>

Heading: Floor Plan Overview

1st Floor:

Nursery (Room 101): For newborns to 2-year-old children.

K-2nd Grade (Room 104): Sabbath classes for younger children.

Grace Place (Room 105): Adult Sabbath Class.

3rd-5th Grade (Room 107): Sabbath classes for elementary students.

Kitchen (Room 106): Available for events or meal preparation.

2nd Floor:

Children's Classrooms:

Room 202: For 3-4-year-olds.

Room 205: Additional space for children.

Green Room (Room 201): General-purpose room.

Staff Offices (Rooms 204 & adjacent spaces): Administrative support.

3rd Floor:

Middle School (Room 306): Sabbath classes for students in middle school.

Portuguese Speaking Adult Class (Room 305): Adult Sabbath Class in Portuguese.

Young Adults (Room 301): For ages 24-35 years.

Ages 18-23 (Room 304): Collegiate-aged individuals' activities.

Kitchen Prep Room (Room 308): Dedicated for meal preparations.

Saturday Classes

Held from 10:45 - 11:45 AM.

Lobby

Centralized area for gathering and information.

URL: <https://wholelife.church/communities>

Content: WholeLife Church Community Groups

Bible Study Community

A community dedicated to studying the Bible and Adventist beliefs. Held 2-3 times per year.

Film Friends Community

A group that gathers twice a month to watch and discuss films—once at a local theater and once at a member's house.

Grace Place - A Saturday Community

Meets every Saturday at 10:45 AM in Room 105 for weekly biblical studies from the SDA Quarterly Lesson.

Prayer Shawls Community

Meets monthly on Sundays to knit shawls for those in need.

Tabletop Titans - Board Game Community

A group for board game enthusiasts, meeting monthly for fun and games.

Characters - Saturday Community

Focuses on topical and character studies from biblical narratives, followed by discussions. Meets every Saturday at 10:45 AM in the Children's Academy.

Faith & Forks Community

A monthly gathering at the WholeLife Student Center for support, faith exploration, and community meals in a welcoming environment.

Paddle Club

A young adult community enjoying monthly paddle sports in Orlando.

Perspectives - Saturday Community

Encourages healthy conversations on diverse topics. Meets every Saturday at 10:45 AM in the Children's Academy.

Young Adults Community

A community fostering faith and curiosity for young adults.

Gym Night Community

Meets Tuesday nights, 6 PM - 8 PM, at the Orlando Junior Academy Gymnasium for volleyball and basketball.

The Quest - Saturday Community

A lecture-style group offering open and diverse discussions. Meets every Saturday at 10:45 AM in the Children's Academy.

Hispanic Community

A Spanish-speaking Bible study and social support group meeting Saturdays at 10:45 AM in the Children's Academy.

Found in Florida Community

A group dedicated to discovering Florida's unique attractions through monthly meetups involving travel, hiking, dining, sightseeing, and camping.

Brazilian Community

A Brazilian Bible study and social support group meeting every Saturday at 10:45 AM in Room 305.

Ellen G. White Reading and Discussion Community

Meets regularly to read and discuss the writings of Ellen G. White.

Cycling Community

For cycling enthusiasts, organizing regular outings across Central Florida.

Russian Speaking Community

A Russian-speaking Bible study and social support group meeting Saturdays at 10:45 AM in the Children's Academy.

Moms with Little Ones

A supportive group for moms with kids aged 0-5 to connect, share experiences, and support each other.

The Makers Community

A group for creators and learners interested in woodworking, baking, sewing, programming, mechanics, and more. Designed for all skill levels.

Sabbath Potluck Pals Community

A group for sharing meals and connecting on Sabbaths. Members host lunches at their homes or in parks to create a relaxed atmosphere.

Fine Art Community

Offers monthly classes focusing on different art styles, from painting to mixed media, for participants to explore and grow their creative skills.

Special Needs Parenting Community

Provides support for families navigating the joys and challenges of raising children with special needs. Offers a compassionate space to share experiences, pray, and connect.

Thrive - Online Community

A virtual content club exploring books, articles, and videos to spark meaningful conversations and personal growth.

URL: <https://wholelife.church/adult>

Heading: Adult classes

Content: WholeLife Church offers a variety of classes, training seminars and discussions to help enhance Biblical understanding and a lifelong friendship with Jesus.

Adult Bible Classes

Classes meet from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. every Saturday for Bible-based study. Visit the Information Center attendant for more information about classes that suit your interests.

The Firm: Room 101

Open Forum: Room 105

Quest: Children's Academy

Perspectives: Children's Academy

Characters: Children's Academy

Russian Language: Children's Academy

Portuguese Language: Room 108

URL: <https://wholelife.church/adventurersandpathfinders>

Heading: WhOLELIFE adventurers & Pathfinder clubs

Content: WholeLife Church Adventurer Club

The Adventurer Club, a ministry of WholeLife Church, is part of a global organization with over one million kids worldwide, catering to children ages 4-9. It focuses on nurturing the four essential relationships in a child's life:

My God

My Self

My Family

My World

Orlando City Pathfinder Club

The Pathfinder Club is a church-centered program designed for young people in grades 5 through 12. It offers a blend of spiritual growth, recreation, and activities. The club is proudly sponsored by the Orlando Central and WholeLife Seventh-day Adventist Churches.

URL: <https://wholelife.church/drama>

Heading: WholeLife Drama Team

Content:

The WholeLife Drama Team offers a unique opportunity to engage in worship through creative expression. Join a dynamic group dedicated to fostering an atmosphere where individuals can encounter God in innovative ways.

How to Join

If you're interested in becoming a part of the drama team, follow these steps:

Fill Out the Drama Team Application:

Provide your first and last name, email, and phone number.

Share any previous drama or acting experience (optional).

Explain why you want to join the team.

Select your preferred role(s):

Casting

Director

Admin

Actor

Reader

Scriptwriter

Team Policy & Covenant

As a drama team member, you play a vital role in the worship experience at WholeLife Church. Your commitment helps create a meaningful and cohesive environment for the community.

Purpose of the Drama Team Policy & Covenant:

Establish clear expectations for all members.

Foster cohesion, efficiency, and excellence.

Promote creativity, synergy, appreciation, and growth within the team.

Team Member Commitments:

Embody WholeLife values: love, acceptance, grace, forgiveness, the Bible, worship, and participation.

Be open to spiritual, personal, creative, and relational growth.

Stay present and prepared for all responsibilities.

Response & Rehearsal Expectations:

Audition is required for all members.

Respond to casting calls within one day.

Attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances if casted.

Arrive on time and be fully prepared for each session.

Expectations for Professionalism:

Platform Conduct:

Be mindful of your visibility when on or near the platform.

Stay attentive to all platform activities.

Maintain awareness that actions may be recorded.

Inclusivity:

Embrace individuals of all ethnicities, genders, languages, and orientations.

Practice patience and adaptability with diverse communication styles.

By submitting your application, you affirm WholeLife's values and commit to the outlined expectations. Thank you for sharing your gifts with the WholeLife community!

URL: <https://wholelife.church/justice>

Heading: Justice

Content:

WholeLife Justice Team

The WholeLife Justice Team is dedicated to making a meaningful impact in our community by building lasting relationships and advocating for justice for the marginalized. Through

volunteering, raising awareness, prayer, and local partnerships, we strive to bring equity and hope to those in need.

Our Mission

To create opportunities for relational engagement within our community, fostering greater equity locally and globally.

Meet the Justice Ministries Board

The Justice Ministries Board at WholeLife Church is composed of dedicated individuals committed to advancing equity and justice through strategic initiatives and partnerships.

Community Resources

Access helpful services and assistance in your local area:

Orange County

Osceola County

Seminole County

Volusia County

Additional Resources:

Economic Impact Payments: Guidance on filing for unemployment.

Whole Health Hub: Provides financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, and other free or reduced-cost services.

The Sharing Center: Offers emergency assistance, clothing, food, and health services.

Family Promise: Assists unsheltered families with children in transitioning into their own homes.

One Heart: Features a food pantry, thrift store, and other services for those in need.

Downloadable Resource:

Community Resources Directory

WholeLife Church Community Assistance

Community assistance is available to members and non-members who meet specific criteria.

Before applying, please explore the resources listed above.

Key Details:

Assistance is provided on a one-time basis.

A screening process, including submission of supporting documentation, typically takes several days.

Applications must be submitted personally, not on behalf of others.

Apply Here:

Community Assistance Form

Support Justice Ministries

Your donations help us continue our work in creating a just and equitable community. Please consider giving online to support our mission.

Contact the Justice Team

If you need assistance or have questions, please reach out using the contact form below:

First Name

Last Name

Email

Phone Number

How Can We Help? (Provide detailed information about your need or question.)

URL: <https://wholelife.church/kids>

Heading: WholeLife Kids

Content:

WholeLife Kids: Loving Children into a Lifelong Friendship with God

Welcome to WholeLife Kids, our ministry designed for children from infants through 5th grade. Here, we nurture a lifelong friendship with God, their families, and one another through engaging Biblical teaching.

Our goal is to make the Bible come alive for kids! Through fun and meaningful activities, we create an environment where children experience acceptance and discover the joy of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Join Us on Saturdays!

Every Saturday morning, WholeLife Kids connects children with caring and consistent leaders who passionately share God's amazing love.

Time: Saturdays at 10:45 AM

Location: WholeLife Church

Volunteer with WholeLife Kids

Make a lasting impact on the lives of children by joining our dedicated team of volunteers!

Volunteer Roles Available:

Sabbath School Leader

Sabbath School Helper

Adventurers

Music

Decorations

Food

Anything!

Other (Specify your desired role)

Volunteer Information Form:

First Name

Last Name

Email

Phone Number

Address (Apartment, suite, city, state, zip/postal code)

If you'd like to serve in a specific role not listed above, let us know your desired volunteer role under the "Other" section.

URL: <https://wholelife.church/music>

Heading: Music

Content:Worship Through Music & Creative Arts

At WholeLife, worshiping God through music and the arts is a vibrant community practice that celebrates diversity, participation, and praise to the One who unites us all.

The Music & Creative Arts Team

Our team is dedicated to creating an atmosphere where everyone can connect with God through inspiring music and creative expression.

Melanie Bockmann

Worship & Liturgy Pastor

Leads the community in meaningful worship experiences, blending tradition and innovation.

Albert Acosta

Director of Music

Oversees music direction, ensuring diversity and excellence in worship.

Wycleff Viana

Choir Director

Inspires the choir to lead worship with passion and harmony.

Worship With Us

Join us for live worship services and special worship concerts as we celebrate God's presence through music and creative arts. Together, let's lift our voices and hearts in praise!

URL: <https://wholelife.church/stephenministries>

Heading: STEPHEN MINISTRIES

Content:

What is Stephen Ministries?

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

— Galatians 6:2

Stephen Ministries trains and supports a team of dedicated individuals within a congregation, known as Stephen Ministers, to offer high-quality, confidential, and Christ-centered care to those experiencing life's challenges. Whether facing grief, illness, or personal struggles, Stephen Ministers provide compassionate, one-on-one support during difficult times.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, yet they share a deep passion for offering Christ's love and comfort to those in need.

Training to Become a Stephen Minister

Are you compassionate and eager to make a difference? Are you looking to be a part of life-changing moments? Consider training to become a Stephen Minister!

Stephen Minister training is a transformative, Christ-centered experience that equips participants with essential skills to care for others. Trainees learn to listen deeply, offer support, and walk with people through difficult times, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

Most Stephen Ministers share that, in addition to enhancing their caregiving abilities, the training has significantly improved their relationships with family, friends, and coworkers.

Heather's story highlights how becoming a Stephen Minister can impact not only those you serve but also your own life and relationships. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining this meaningful ministry. Apply now!

Becoming a Care Receiver

Are you feeling lonely, discouraged, or going through a tough time emotionally or spiritually? Are you struggling with a life crisis? A Stephen Minister may be able to help.

Stephen Ministers are trained congregation members who offer care, encouragement, prayer, and support. They walk alongside you for as long as needed, meeting with you once a week for about an hour.

If you find yourself facing a challenging time, we encourage you to reach out to a pastor or the Stephen Ministry leaders at stephenministries@wholelife.church.

Lea's story is a testament to how impactful a Stephen Minister can be during times of hardship. Don't hesitate to seek the support you need.

What Stephen Ministry Means to Me

By Rhonda Rilea

The leaders of Whole Life Church have worked tirelessly to develop and nurture the Stephen Ministry Program. Our community is filled with people facing grief, loss, and hardship. They need someone to walk alongside them through these challenges. Stephen Ministers are highly trained to provide the care and support needed during these difficult times.

It has been a true honor to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. Witnessing the growth and faith of those I've helped has been a source of joy. Before each meeting with my Care Receiver, I would pray this prayer from Matthew 21:22 (The Clear Word):

"When you ask God for help, and believe you will receive it, He will help you in ways that will amaze you!"

God truly showed up every time, speaking through me.

This program has also had a profound impact on my personal life. I've become a better listener and more empathetic to the needs of others. I highly encourage anyone interested in walking alongside others through their healing journey to join this meaningful ministry. Not only will your Care Receiver be blessed, but you will be, too.

URL: <https://wholelife.church/productions>

Heading: WholeLife Productions

Content:

OUR MISSION

WholeLife Productions Mission is to create an atmosphere for our church family to intimately worship God.

URL: <https://wholelife.church/young-adults>

Heading: Young Adults

Content:

Young Adults: Building Community Centered on Jesus
Saturdays, 10:45 a.m. – Room 301

Centered Gathering (Ages 18-30):

Join us every Saturday morning in Room 301 for the WholeLife Young Adult Community. We gather to explore how Jesus is relevant in our everyday lives through meaningful discussions. We also host exciting social events, including lake days, game nights, and much more

URL: <https://wholelife.church/youth>

Heading: high school

Content:

high school

WholeLife Church strives to build Christ-centered community through meaningful discussions and fun activities.

We want WholeLife to be a safe space for your student by supporting them through life's challenges.

URL: <https://wholelife.church/wholelifeministries>

Heading: WHOLELIFE MINISTRIES

Content:

URL: <https://wholelife.church/wholeness>

Heading: WELCOME ADVENTHEALTH FAMILY!

Content:

WELCOME, ADVENTHEALTH FAMILY!

Every Saturday, we come together to worship with visitors from diverse cultural, spiritual, and generational backgrounds.

Our hope is that through this experience, you'll be encouraged to pursue an authentic, life-changing relationship with your Savior.

We've prepared a place just for you—enjoy!

WELCOME HOME.

Live Worship

This Week at WholeLife

Join us for a safe, relaxed atmosphere as we worship together through music, drama, and spiritually relevant messages. Feel the warmth and inclusivity of the #WholeLifeFamily—a diverse community of worshippers at WholeLife Church and around the world.

Remember to join the live chat and say hello!

Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. EST

Each week, you'll find our latest message and worship music led by our talented team.

Worship Archives

Albert Recommends:

Coming soon...

WholeLife offers decades of complete church services at your fingertips. Worship through various topics and musical styles as our speakers and worship team guide you into a lifelong friendship with God.

Ken Recommends:

This Is Us (Series)

Love At Work – The L.A.W. (Series)

Go Way, Way Back... FHC Archives

Explore our past worship services with access to archives from Florida Hospital Church and WholeLife Church.

JOIN US FOR LIVE WORSHIP

Music and Message

At WholeLife, our worship team dedicates time and effort to preparing music, songs, and instrumentation that guide us in worship in a variety of styles, reflecting our diversity and our shared desire to worship God.

WholeLife Kids!

Kids are the future—and the now—of our church culture! Join the WholeLife Kids Team for an engaging, age-appropriate, interactive Bible study class (K-5).

Podcasts

The WholeLife Church Inspiration You Love, Straight Into Your Headphones

Listen now to the weekly message podcast:

Speaking of Grace

Dive deeper into the message with:

This Is WholeLife

Randy Recommends:

This Is Us (Series)

Music Archives

WholeLife Kids!

PODCASTS

URL: <https://wholelife.church/gls>

Heading: #GLS25 IS BACK AT WholeLife church!

Content:

GLS25 IS BACK AT WHOLELIFE CHURCH!

AUGUST 7-8, 2025!

 Register Now for the Lowest Price UNTIL AUGUST 16, 2024 

REGISTER NOW FOR #GLS25 AT WHOLELIFE CHURCH

Thank You for Attending #GLS24: A Message from Ken – 8/14/24
Greetings!

On behalf of our entire team, I want to express our heartfelt thanks for attending The Global Leadership Summit (GLS) at WholeLife Church. We hope you walked away feeling inspired, energized, and more equipped as a leader.

I also want to give a special thank you to AdventHealth for their continued partnership in bringing GLS to you. We truly appreciate the delicious meals they provided throughout the Summit.

If you haven't done so yet, please mark your calendars for August 7 & 8, 2025 to attend GLS. You can register for GLS 2025 by searching for GLS2025@AdventHealth - WholeLife Church (Orlando, FL) as seen in the picture under the registration button above. Register before Friday at 11:59 p.m. to receive Erwin McManus resources with your registration.

For more exciting events at WholeLife Church, check out our events calendar. If there is anything we can do to serve you or those you love, don't hesitate to reach out. We are here for you!

God's blessings,
Ken Wetmore
Lead Pastor, WholeLife Church

URL: <https://wholelife.church/worldvision>

Heading: Wholelife and Worldvision

Content:
WholeLife and World Vision
Why World Vision?

At WholeLife Church, we are deeply aligned with World Vision's mission to mobilize the Church beyond its walls—this mirrors our own vision to make a real difference in the world. World Vision inspires people to step out, get involved, and walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Together with churches, we create ministry experiences that bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.

World Vision makes it easy to trust that every dollar we give as a church community is used directly to impact children and communities in need. World Vision U.S. is proud to be a top-rated charity, consistently reviewed and held accountable by independent third-party organizations.

URL: <https://wholelife.church/blog/2024/09/14/ai-sermon-s>

Heading: AI Sermon(s)

Content:

These italicized are the only non-AI generated parts of this blog. The image was AI generated on ChatGPT and the sermons below were AI Generated on ChatGPT. The prompt was "Create a 20 minute sermon on AI from a (Christian, Seventh-day Adventist, Muslim, & Hindu) worldview." I did four different worldviews so you can compare and contrast how AI did each worldview. It was easy enough since the whole thing took me less than 5 minutes. To see my non-AI generated sermon on this topic check out my sermon on September 14, 2024.

****Sermon: Embracing Artificial Intelligence Through a Christian Worldview****

****Introduction:****

Good morning, everyone. Today, we're diving into a topic that's both modern and profound: artificial intelligence. It's a subject that sparks wonder, excitement, and sometimes even fear. How does this cutting-edge technology fit into our Christian worldview? How should we, as followers of Christ, approach AI with faith and wisdom?

****I. The Nature of Creation and Innovation****

First, let's consider the nature of creation. Genesis 1:27 tells us, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." As image-bearers of God, humans possess the unique ability to create and innovate. Our creativity reflects our Creator, who made a universe filled with complexity and beauty.

Artificial intelligence is an extension of this creative mandate. It's a tool, created by human minds that reflect the divine image. From the simplest algorithms to the most sophisticated neural networks, AI represents our effort to harness the gifts and talents God has bestowed upon us.

****II. The Ethical Framework of AI****

As we explore AI, we must also consider its ethical implications. Proverbs 2:6 reminds us, “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Wisdom is crucial when developing and deploying technology. We must ensure that AI is used for good and not for harm.

AI has immense potential to benefit society—improving healthcare, enhancing education, and tackling climate change. However, there are also concerns: bias in algorithms, job displacement, and privacy issues. We must approach these challenges with a Christian ethic of love and justice. Micah 6:8 instructs us to “act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Our engagement with AI should reflect these values, ensuring that it serves humanity with fairness and compassion.

****III. AI and Human Dignity****

One of the core tenets of Christianity is the inherent dignity of every human being. This principle must guide our interaction with AI. In Matthew 22:39, Jesus commands us to “love your neighbor as yourself.” As we develop and use AI, we should ask ourselves: Does this technology uplift the dignity of individuals? Does it foster relationships and community, or does it dehumanize?

AI should not replace the personal, relational aspects of human interaction. It should enhance our ability to serve and love one another. For instance, AI can assist in providing better care for the elderly, supporting mental health initiatives, and connecting people across distances. But it must always be applied in ways that affirm and respect human worth.

****IV. AI and the Future of Work****

The rise of AI brings questions about the future of work. Will machines replace humans, or will they create new opportunities? Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Change is a part of life, and as Christians, we are called to adapt and trust in God’s provision.

As AI transforms industries, we must focus on how we can prepare for this change with grace and resilience. This may involve acquiring new skills, pursuing lifelong learning, and supporting those who are affected by technological shifts. Our response should be one of hope and proactive stewardship, helping to ensure that the transition is as smooth and equitable as possible.

****V. The Spiritual Dimension of AI****

Finally, let's consider the spiritual dimension of AI. While AI is a remarkable tool, it does not possess consciousness, soul, or moral agency. It can mimic human behavior but cannot replicate human spirituality. In Psalm 139:14, we read, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Our worth is rooted in our relationship with God, not in our technological creations.

AI can assist in our spiritual lives by providing resources for study, facilitating connections for fellowship, and even aiding in outreach efforts. But it is crucial to remember that our faith and relationship with God are nurtured through prayer, worship, and community, not through algorithms or data.

****Conclusion:****

In conclusion, artificial intelligence fits into a Christian worldview as a tool that reflects our divine creativity and potential. It presents both opportunities and challenges, and our response should be guided by wisdom, ethics, and a deep respect for human dignity. Let us engage with AI in ways that honor God, uphold justice, and serve our neighbors with love.

As we navigate this technological landscape, may we do so with the assurance that God is sovereign over all creation, including our innovations. Let us seek His guidance in our endeavors and trust that, in all things, His wisdom and love will lead us forward.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gifts of creativity and innovation. As we engage with artificial intelligence, grant us wisdom to use it for the good of all people and to reflect Your love and justice in our work. Help us to uphold the dignity of every person and to navigate this new frontier with grace and humility. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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Sermon Title: Navigating the Future: Artificial Intelligence in a Seventh-day Adventist Worldview
Introduction

Good morning, dear family in Christ. Today, we find ourselves in a rapidly changing world where technology evolves at an unprecedented pace. One of the most talked-about advancements is artificial intelligence (AI). It's a topic that might seem far removed from our spiritual walk, but as Seventh-day Adventists, we are called to reflect on all aspects of life through the lens of our faith. Let's explore how AI fits into our worldview and how we can navigate this technology while staying true to our biblical principles.

Understanding AI: A Brief Overview

Artificial intelligence, in its simplest form, refers to machines or software designed to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These include things like learning from experience, recognizing patterns, and making decisions. AI is already a part of our daily lives,

from virtual assistants like Siri and Alexa to more complex systems used in healthcare, finance, and even autonomous vehicles.

Biblical Perspective on Technology

Before diving into the specifics of AI, let's ground our discussion in a biblical perspective on technology. The Bible doesn't mention AI explicitly, but it does provide principles that can guide our understanding of technology:

Stewardship: Genesis 1:26-28 tells us that God entrusted humanity with the responsibility to care for and steward the Earth. This principle extends to our use of technology. We are called to use our knowledge and skills wisely, ensuring that our advancements honor God's creation and contribute to human flourishing.

Wisdom and Discernment: Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages us to trust in the Lord and seek His guidance in all our ways. As we navigate new technologies, including AI, we should seek God's wisdom and discernment to ensure that our choices align with His will.

Ethical Considerations: Micah 6:8 reminds us that God requires us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. Our engagement with AI should reflect these values, ensuring that our actions and decisions are ethical and compassionate.

AI in the Light of the Seventh-day Adventist Faith

AI and Human Identity

One of the core beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists is the understanding of humanity as created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). This concept emphasizes the unique value and dignity of human life. AI challenges us to reflect on what it means to be human. While AI can mimic certain human functions, it lacks consciousness, emotions, and the spiritual aspect that defines us as beings created in God's image. It's crucial to remember that, despite its capabilities, AI is still a tool created by humans and does not possess intrinsic worth or moral responsibility.

AI and the Sabbath

The Sabbath is a cornerstone of our faith, a time for rest and spiritual renewal (Exodus 20:8-11). AI, with its constant connectivity and potential for driving a 24/7 work culture, can challenge our observance of the Sabbath. We must be mindful of how technology affects our ability to rest and spend time with God. It's important to set boundaries and use AI in a way that supports rather than disrupts our Sabbath experience.

Ethical Implications

AI brings with it ethical considerations that align with our Adventist principles. For instance, AI's impact on privacy, employment, and decision-making requires careful thought. We should advocate for the responsible development and use of AI that respects human rights and dignity. As Christians, we are called to stand against any misuse of technology that harms individuals or communities.

AI and Prophecy

Seventh-day Adventists believe in the imminent return of Christ and the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. While AI itself is not a prophetic sign, it is part of the broader technological and societal changes that mark the end times. We should view these advancements with a sense of readiness and urgency, remaining vigilant and focused on our mission to share the gospel and prepare for Christ's return.

Practical Steps for Navigating AI

Educate Ourselves: Stay informed about AI and its implications. Understanding how AI works and its potential impact on society can help us make more informed decisions and engage in meaningful discussions about its ethical use.

Engage in Ethical Dialogue: Be an active participant in conversations about the ethical use of AI. Advocate for policies and practices that align with our values of justice, mercy, and humility.

Use AI Responsibly: When using AI in our personal and professional lives, do so in a way that reflects our commitment to stewardship and ethical behavior. Ensure that our use of technology enhances our relationships, supports our well-being, and honors God.

Pray for Guidance: Seek God's wisdom in our interactions with technology. Pray for discernment in how we use AI and for the development of technology that serves humanity in a just and compassionate manner.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while artificial intelligence presents new challenges and opportunities, it also offers us a chance to reflect on our faith and values. As Seventh-day Adventists, we are called to approach AI with a spirit of stewardship, wisdom, and ethical consideration. By grounding our actions in biblical principles and seeking God's guidance, we can navigate the future with confidence and integrity.

Let us remember that no matter how advanced technology becomes, our ultimate trust is in God. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8), and His guidance will lead us through the complexities of the modern world. May we embrace these changes with a heart full of faith, ensuring that every step we take brings us closer to His divine purpose.

Let us pray.

###

****Title: Embracing Artificial Intelligence within the Muslim Worldview****

****Introduction:****

As-salamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh. Peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you all. Today, we delve into an important and contemporary topic: the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) within the framework of the Muslim worldview. Our world is rapidly changing with technological advancements, and it's essential to reflect on how these innovations align with our faith and values.

****1. Understanding Artificial Intelligence:****

Artificial intelligence refers to systems or machines that mimic human intelligence to perform tasks and can iteratively improve themselves based on the data they receive. From virtual assistants and recommendation systems to complex algorithms driving autonomous vehicles, AI is becoming a central part of our daily lives.

****2. The Islamic Perspective on Knowledge and Technology:****

Islam has always encouraged the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. The Quran says in Surah Al-Mujadila (58:11): "Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees." This verse highlights the importance of knowledge and intellectual advancement.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also emphasized the importance of seeking knowledge. He said, "Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim." This directive includes not just religious knowledge but also the sciences and technologies that can benefit humanity.

****3. AI and the Ethical Framework of Islam:****

Islamic ethics emphasize principles such as justice, compassion, and the welfare of humanity. AI, as a tool, should be used to uphold these values. For instance:

- ****Justice and Fairness:**** The Quran instructs us to be just in our dealings. AI systems should be designed to avoid bias and ensure fairness. For example, algorithms used in criminal justice or hiring practices must be scrutinized to prevent discrimination.
- ****Compassion and Beneficence:**** The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "The merciful are shown mercy by The Merciful." AI should be utilized in ways that enhance human welfare, such as improving healthcare, education, and access to essential services.
- ****Accountability and Responsibility:**** Islam holds individuals accountable for their actions. As we develop and deploy AI technologies, we must ensure that these systems are used responsibly and that their creators are accountable for their impact on society.

****4. AI in the Context of Human Agency and Free Will:****

AI systems can perform complex tasks and make decisions based on data, but they do not possess free will or consciousness. In Islam, human beings are endowed with free will and the ability to make moral choices. AI should complement human decision-making, not replace it. The Quran in Surah Al-Insan (76:2) states, "We have certainly created man and We know what his soul whispers to him, and We are closer to him than [his] jugular vein."

Our relationship with AI should be one of stewardship rather than dependency. We must remember that we, as human beings, are responsible for our actions and decisions, including those made with the assistance of AI.

****5. The Role of AI in Serving Humanity:****

AI has the potential to address many global challenges, such as poverty, disease, and environmental issues. For example:

- **Healthcare:** AI can improve diagnostic accuracy and personalize treatment plans, potentially saving countless lives.
- **Education:** AI-driven tools can provide customized learning experiences and increase access to quality education for underserved communities.
- **Environmental Protection:** AI can help monitor and manage natural resources, combat climate change, and promote sustainable practices.

By aligning AI development with Islamic principles, we can harness its benefits while staying true to our values of serving humanity and protecting the environment.

6. Balancing Innovation with Islamic Principles:

As we embrace AI and other technological advancements, we must balance innovation with our ethical and spiritual principles. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) advised moderation in all aspects of life. He said, "The best of affairs is moderation." We should apply this principle to our use of technology, ensuring that it serves to enhance our lives without compromising our ethical standards or spiritual well-being.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, artificial intelligence is a powerful tool that, when guided by Islamic principles, can significantly benefit humanity. It is crucial that we approach AI with a mindset of ethical responsibility, compassion, and justice. As Muslims, we are called to be stewards of knowledge and technology, ensuring that these advancements align with the values of our faith.

May Allah grant us wisdom and guidance as we navigate this evolving landscape. May He help us use technology to serve humanity and uphold justice and compassion in all our endeavors. Ameen.

Thank you for your attention. May Allah bless you all. As-salamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh.

###

Title: Embracing the Divine Harmony: Artificial Intelligence in the Light of Hindu Philosophy

Introduction:

Namaste, everyone. Today, we embark on an intriguing journey where ancient wisdom meets modern innovation. We will explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) fits into the rich tapestry of Hindu worldview, a tradition steeped in the pursuit of truth and harmony.

In Hinduism, we are taught to see the divine presence in every facet of life. From the grandeur of the cosmos to the intricate dance of subatomic particles, everything is interwoven in a divine symphony. The advent of AI prompts us to reflect on this ancient wisdom in a new light. How does AI, a product of human ingenuity and technology, align with the principles of Sanatana Dharma?

****1. The Concept of Brahman and the Cosmic Dance:****

In Hindu philosophy, Brahman represents the ultimate reality, the source from which everything emanates and into which everything eventually returns. Brahman is both immanent and transcendent, the cosmic ocean from which the universe arises and to which it converges.

AI, in its essence, is a manifestation of human creativity and intellect—an extension of our own consciousness and knowledge. It is important to recognize that AI does not exist in isolation. It is a tool shaped by human intention, guided by our values and aspirations. In this sense, AI can be seen as an extension of the divine creativity inherent in all of us.

Much like how the universe dances to the rhythm of cosmic laws, AI operates within the parameters set by human design. This cosmic dance reflects the interconnectedness of all things, a principle deeply embedded in Hindu philosophy. AI, as a part of this dance, can be a means to manifest our deeper aspirations, provided it aligns with the higher ethical and moral principles we hold dear.

****2. Karma, Dharma, and the Ethical Implications of AI:****

Karma, the law of cause and effect, and Dharma, the righteous path or duty, are fundamental concepts in Hinduism. Every action we take generates karma, which influences our present and future experiences. Dharma guides us to act in harmony with cosmic principles and moral values.

When we develop and deploy AI, we must consider the karmic and dharmic implications. The algorithms and systems we create are influenced by our intentions and ethical considerations. If AI is designed with compassion, justice, and respect for all beings, it will contribute positively to society. Conversely, if it is driven by selfish motives or used unethically, it can generate negative consequences.

Our duty (dharma) as creators and users of AI is to ensure that it serves the greater good. We must use it to alleviate suffering, promote justice, and enhance human welfare. This aligns with

the Hindu principle of seva, or selfless service, which emphasizes acting for the benefit of others without attachment to the fruits of our actions.

****3. The Unity of Diversity and AI:****

Hinduism celebrates the unity of diversity. The concept of "Ekam Sat Vipraah Bahudha Vadanti," meaning "Truth is One, but the wise call it by different names," illustrates this principle. This philosophy embraces the diversity of paths and perspectives, recognizing that different approaches can lead to the same ultimate truth.

AI, in its diverse applications—from healthcare to education to creative arts—reflects this principle of unity in diversity. It has the potential to bring together various strands of knowledge and experience, creating new opportunities for understanding and growth. AI can help bridge gaps between cultures, disciplines, and individuals, fostering a more interconnected world.

However, it is crucial to approach AI with awareness and mindfulness. Just as the Vedic texts guide us to seek knowledge with humility and discernment, so must we approach AI with a sense of responsibility and ethical consideration. Our engagement with AI should be guided by the wisdom that recognizes both the unity and diversity of the human experience.

****4. The Role of Maya and the Illusion of AI:****

In Hinduism, Maya is often described as the cosmic illusion that veils the true nature of reality. It is the illusion that makes the transient world appear real, diverting us from the ultimate truth of Brahman.

AI, as a technological creation, can be viewed through the lens of Maya. It represents the ingenuity of the human mind, yet it is also a product of our conditioned perceptions and limitations. While AI can simulate intelligence and learning, it is ultimately a reflection of our own knowledge and biases.

Understanding AI through the concept of Maya reminds us to remain grounded in our pursuit of higher truth. While AI offers remarkable capabilities, it is not a substitute for spiritual wisdom or the quest for self-realization. It is a tool that can enhance our understanding, but it should not distract us from the deeper truths of existence.

****Conclusion:****

In conclusion, Artificial Intelligence, when viewed through the Hindu worldview, emerges as a reflection of divine creativity, a subject of ethical consideration, and a manifestation of the unity in diversity. It is a tool that, when guided by compassion, ethical principles, and a deeper understanding of our interconnectedness, can contribute positively to the world.

As we move forward in this age of technological advancement, let us remember the teachings of our ancient sages. Let us approach AI with the same reverence and mindfulness that we bring to our spiritual practices. By aligning our technological endeavors with the higher principles of Dharma, Karma, and the pursuit of truth, we can create a future where technology and spirituality coexist harmoniously.

Thank you for joining me on this exploration. May our collective efforts in the realm of AI be guided by wisdom, compassion, and a deep sense of our shared humanity. Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti.

URL: <https://wholelife.church/blog/2024/08/09/what-are-you-reading>

Heading: What Are You Reading?

Content:

What are you reading or what audiobook are you listening to right now? I ask because I have a goal of reading 52 books a year and I'm always looking for my next good read/listen.

Right now I am finishing *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt and the WholeLife staff are reading *Unreasonable Hospitality* by Will Guidara. I recommend both. Here are my other favorites that I've read so far in 2024 in case you're looking for a good book. Feel free to click on the links to find out more about the books.

Supercommunicators by Charles Duhigg
The Suprising Rebirth of Belief in God by Justin Brierley
Dominion by Tom Holland
How to Know a Person by David Brooks
How the Talmud Can Change Your Life by Liel Leibovitz
Outlive by Peter Attia, MD
A Bridge to Far by Cornelius Ryan
Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Happy reading!

URL: <https://wholelife.church/blog/2024/08/02/the-global-leadership-summit>

Heading: The Global Leadership Summit

Content:

The Global Leadership Summit (GLS) is a game changer. The first summit I attended was a pivotal moment in my life. It was one of those experiences that you look back on and think, "that really changed the trajectory of where I was going in a positive way."

For that reason I wanted to see WholeLife host GLS. In August, 2023 we partnered with AdventHealth and more than 100 people attended. I wasn't disappointed. It was a game changer. I heard that from so many people who were there. However, hearing it from my teenage children, Kyla and Eric, was most meaningful. While being initially dubious about attending both left gushing about how much they had learned and I watched them take what they learned and grow as young adults.

Next week, August 8-9, we will be hosting GLS again. Do you want a game changer...do you need a game changer? Consider attending. I'll look forward to seeing you there!

URL: <https://wholelife.church/blog/2024/07/26/nature>

Heading: Nature

Content:

I am grateful that I was raised in places where I could play outside. My early memories are of hunting for butterflies and lightning bugs in the field next to our house. I remember the farmer who would bail hay in that field giving me a quarter for "helping" him throw bales of hay on the trailer behind his tractor.

As I grew older we moved to house out in the woods. My brother and I would spend hours every day running around the mountain behind our house. We discovered small caves, hidden creeks, and climbed trees. One day we came across a rock face and I decided I would climb it. My brother waited below. I think the plan was that if I fell he would go home and report my death. About half way up I got stuck. I couldn't figure out how to keep going up and I didn't think I go back down either. I clung to my spot terrified not knowing what to do. My brother offered encouragement and then he got worried. He asked if he should go home and get mom and dad. As scared as I was I didn't want him to do that. It might mean our adventures would be curbed. In that moment, I told myself I could figure it out...and I did.

This story came to my mind this week for two different reasons. One, I am preaching this Sabbath (Saturday) on playing in nature and two, I started a book titled, The Anxious Generation, by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt. Jonathan convincingly correlates smart phones, a diminishing of children's time in nature, and parents keeping their children from risk

as the reason for the rise in anxiety, depression, and other mental health problems in children and adolescents.

As I think back on my childhood, I can see the ways I learned problem solving and all kinds of other important lessons from being in nature both with my parents and on my own. I am grateful my children, perhaps to a lesser degree, also had those opportunities in some of the places we lived, particularly when I was a summer camp director for five summers when they were young.

If you have kids, work with kids, or just want to understand how the world is changing, I would highly recommend you read *The Anxious Generation*. The other thing I would recommend...take some time to enjoy nature...maybe late in the evening or early in the morning during this hot Florida summer but get out there, maybe take a risk, and enjoy what God created for your enjoyment and growth.

URL: <https://wholelife.church/blog/2024/05/11/kenmunication>

Heading: Kenmunication

Content:

THE ART OF WORSHIP: MUSIC

MAY 11, 2024

Welcome to my blog! It's going to be a little eclectic...like its author.

Music is a huge part of life. In my sermon today (May 11, 2024), I talked about music as art in worship. In the sermon, I used several different videos, and I thought some of you might enjoy being able to watch more than clips, so here are the complete videos.

Kyla's Clip from the Jacob Collier Concert in Tampa Bay

Torah Singing: Genesis 1

The Oldest Song in the World with Lyrics and Musical Notations

Psalms 23

Oxyrhynchus Hymn

Early Adventist Song: Chewing & Smoking

Why Should the Devil Have All the Good Music - Larry Norman

If you would like to be involved with music at WholeLife...there's a link for that!

Finally, help us push WholeLife original music to the top of your favorite streaming platform algorithm.

Stream WholeLife Worship Music's newest release: Connected!

God's blessings!